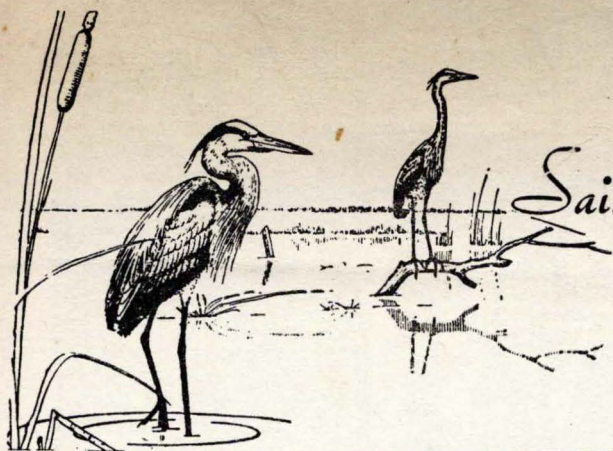




Saint Louis Audubon

BULLETIN

Vol. 21, No. 2

November 1952



AUDUBON CONSERVATION

AWARD TO AMELIA MEISSNER

Friday, Nov. 28, at 3rd Baptist Church
Grand and Washington
8:15 p.m.

Director and organizer of the public school's Education Museum from its founding in 1904. She was responsible for the wonderful collection of visual aids for science teaching that have formed the background of conservation teaching in St. Louis schools for two generations of boys and girls. This museum, which has become the Division of Audio-Visual Education, was the first public school visual education service in America, and was a pioneer in the education field.

Previous recipients have included: Sterling P. Jones, Edward K. Love, Wayne Short, Luther Ely Smith, Leonard Hall, Dr. Robert J. Terry, and George E. Moore.

NOVEMBER SCREEN TOUR PRESENTS MAJOR ETTER IN MISSOURI TRAVELOGUE

The program feature of the evening will be "A Missouri Story", magnificent color film of year round nature events found on an old Missouri farm where crops were reaped almost as they were 75 years ago. Filmed in the foothills of the Missouri Ozarks, the relations of living animals and plants of the woodland and farm tell of the drama that fills the lives of all wild creatures. Screen Tour speaker, Major Alfred Etter, a native of Missouri, presents a pastoral study where a simple woodland becomes a thing of beauty . . . its trees, cathedrals; its songbirds, the choir; its sermon, the rock and rills. No one viewing this film can ever again look at a grove of trees without feeling the throbbing pulse of wild things that live in our fields and forests.

LEONARD HALL WINS ANOTHER CONSERVATION AWARD

Our own Leonard Hall of Possum Trot fame who has already attracted widespread attention in Missouri, now has won national acclaim for his success in restoring worn out land, building up wildlife populations and improving hunting and fishing conditions in his community. Hall, Ozark farmer, newspaper columnist and Screen Tour lecturer, has been voted the Conservation Award given by Outdoor Life Magazine for outstanding achievement in the safeguarding and wise use of natural resources. The Missouri Outdoor Writers Assn. sponsored the presentation, which was made by I. T. Bode, director of the Missouri Conservation Commission. The St. Louis Audubon Citation was awarded Mr. Hall in 1949, for outstanding work in Conservation. The same year he was awarded the "Master Conservationist" award in Missouri.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(And invite your friends to join, too.)

Active memberships are \$2.00. Screen Tour Memberships are an additional \$3.00, and Sponsor Screen Tour Memberships which include a reserved seat are \$6.00. Patron Screen Tour Memberships which include reserved Screen Tour seats for the whole family are \$50.00. Use the yellow application, blank, or enclose in an envelope the name, address, and amount of money the new member wishes to contribute. Mail to Mrs. Marshall Wagner, 516 Bacon Avenue, Webster Groves 19, Mo.



Bob Hecht, Dick Grossenheider, Alex Hope at Autograph Party
—Martin Schweig Studio

ADDITIONS TO 1952-53 FIELD TRIPS

This is a new addition to our program. These trips present opportunity to visit the best birding areas of St. Louis region. All trips begin at 8 a.m. and last approximately two hours.

Field Trips	Date - Time	Meeting Point	Leader
Dupo	Sun. Nov. 23, 8 a.m.	Jct. Ill. 157 & 3	Julian Neill
Swan Lake	Sun. Nov. 30, 8 a.m.	311 Prospect, Alton.	O. C. K. Hutchinson
Weldon Springs	Sun. Dec. 14, 8 a.m.	Lodge on Area	Jim Comfort
Grand Marais S. Pk.	Sun. Jan. 4, 8 a.m.	Restaurant in Park	Dick Anderson
Chain of Rocks	Sun. Jan. 18, 8 a.m.	W. Ch. of Rcks. Br.	Mark Tuttle
St. Louis Zoo	Sat. Feb. 14, 2 p.m.	Bird House	Wm. Conway
Dardenne Marsh	Sun. Mar. 15, 8 a.m.	W. Ch. of Rcks. Br.	David Jones
Gray Summit	Sun. Mar. 29, 8 a.m.	Pavilion	Louis Brenner
Forest Park	Sun. Apr. 19, 26 May 3, 10, 7:30 a.m.	Jefferson Memorial	Martin Schweig, Jr.
Shaw's Garden	Sat. Apr. 18, 25 8 a.m.	Main Gate	L. & C. Wamhoff
Spring Census	Sun. May 3	Individual trips	Martin Schweig, Jr.
Creve Coeur Lake	Sun. May 17, 7 a.m.	Refreshment Stand	Beulah Bedell

For directions see **Guide to St. Louis Birding Areas**. For complete details, call Leader of Field Trip, or Mrs. Marshall Magner.

September 27 Field Trip to Weber Lake a Success

From the time the group left the bridge in St. Charles until the return to the home of Arthur Osiek to view the amateur taxidermy collections, there was a steady showing of birds 'for the count'.

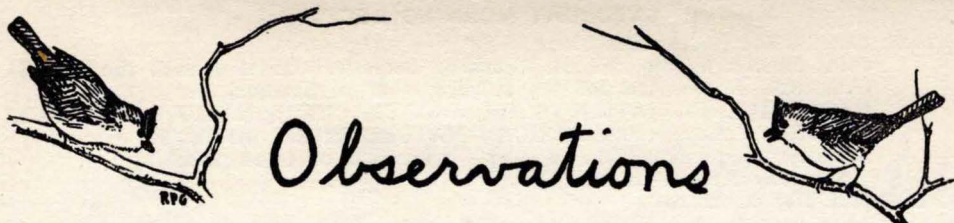
The Graffs report the old stand-by log sitting technique is still good. These warblers' curiosity got them on the list: Bay-breasted, Myrtle, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green. The list totaled 38 species, counting Rock Dove, with Ducks (unidentified). Wedges of geese were worth the trip, some reported.

Lunar Bird Watching at the Palms

The Society's second picnic was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar A. Palm on Sunday, November 2, from 4 till 10 p.m. Location: Near Big Bend Blvd., approximately 3.5 miles west of Lindbergh Blvd. Telescopes were available to watch the silhouettes of migrants as they flew across the full moon.

This fall, hundreds of persons all over the country will be looking through telescopes to record the passage of migrating birds before the disc of the moon. Their combined efforts will provide an insight into age-old mysteries of mass migration such as no single set of observers could obtain in a lifetime. Roger Tory Peterson has written of this branch of ornithology: "If you have not yet gone in for lunar bird watching, you are missing something. There is real drama in the procession of winged silhouettes crossing the whiteness of the moon toward an unknown destination."

Arrangements have been made for a picnic at the estate of Mr. Joseph Desloge, Vouisiers, Florissant, in May. Details later.



As usual, late summer birding was well stimulated by the reliable shorebirds, which prevent the season from becoming dull. The welcome long-legged birds arrived the first week in July, followed by a heavy concentration the middle of the month. Because our excellent shorebird producing mud flats near Taussig Road in St. Louis County became dry we were limited to three local areas. By far, our best early shorebirding was at Little Creve Coeur Lake until it also dried up in early September. This left us only the lakes of Grand Marais State Park and Horseshoe Lake across the Mississippi River in Illinois, thereby limiting our travel area considerably. Heavy gathering of birds at these feeding grounds, however, made shorebirding comparatively easy.

An all time high total of thirty-three shorebird species surpassed last year's record total of thirty species. Of these, all appeared in the fall except the Black-necked Stilt and the Hudsonian Godwits which were found in May. Among the rare fall shorebirds were Knot, Willet, Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Turnstone, Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, Northern Phalarope, Red Phalarope and Sanderling. The lone Knot was seen at Grand Marais State Park on August 26, by Julian Neill and Earl Comfort. Buffbreasts were unusually common this year, with a high number of eleven individuals. Dick Anderson's five Turnstones were unusual as this species generally appears singly. Among the commoner types, Killdeer and Pectoral Sandpipers were exceptionally numerous.

Jack Van Benthuyssen's Black Rail in St. Charles County on August 15 was an excellent find, as were Earl Comfort's Wood Ibis at Horseshoe Lake on August 26, and Gene Wilhelm's White-faced Glossy Ibis on the East side on September 11. Lack of suitable habitat forced the members of the heron family to gather at Horseshoe Lake. American Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were well represented in August and September. On September 29, Earl Comfort found our only White Pelican at fast drying Horseshoe Lake.

A Red Phalarope furnished a very exciting climax to our year's shorebirding. On October 4, this extremely rare bird was studied leisurely at close range at Grand Marais State Park by Bruce Tanner, Julian Neill, David Jones, Dick Anderson and Earl Comfort. Others saw the popular bird on later dates.

EDITOR'S NOTES

We feel prompted, after three years of editorial effort, to insert a few words. We would like to reply to expressed thoughts of various individuals of our membership.

We have been concerned with the recurring suggestion that many ordinary members may become discouraged by the repeated listings on 'rarities' among our abundant birdlife. Some have even suggested that this "rare bird" reporting by the same few individuals defeats the objectives upon which the Audubon Society was founded; and that the vast majority of members who simply "like birds and nature, and are interested in furthering the conservation of our natural resources" get the idea that this "listing of rarities" is all we accept in regard to birds and conservation.

Actually that is far from the true picture, as our well rounded program of field trips for beginners, Screen Tours, awards, etc. will show. And the Bulletin is small. We should like to enlarge soon and include more about what you see.

But to you, ninety-nine and six-tenths percent of our membership, who have never seen, nor will probably ever see a "lone Knot", an ultra rare Red Phalarope or a next-to-impossible curlew Sandpiper, we address these few words of encouragement: First, we have in the St. Louis area quite a number of expert specialists in the strictest sense of the word. Many of them spend whole days and part of the nights each week of the year with high power binoculars and telescopes out in the field looking for birds. It's a highly competitive game they play. They know just what they are looking for. Their ability to carry into the field the vast amount of minute detail which differentiates one sub-species from another is phenomenal. Their records of rarities from year to year will prove this point. Some "non-listers" have wondered how the list can grow longer each year. There must be a limit, they say.

A second rather encouraging thought for most of us in this regard, is that expressed by an outstanding bird authority who stated "there probably aren't more kinds of birds than formerly, but just more people out looking for them, for longer periods of time." The bird watcher today, in fact, will not even allow birds the privacy of the cover of darkness, as shown by the latest methods of training telescopes on the moon to spot them as they pass.

So we print these lists in each number. It has been felt they record data for further study, and lend a flavor of research to our publication. But please do not let these reports make you feel like a piker at bird-watching enjoyment. If you still get a thrill watching the Chickadees, Titmice and Downy Woodpecker feeding at your suet, or the red flash of the very common Cardinal against the snow as he alights on your feeding shelf this winter, you are still a good member in the Society. If you have enjoyed seeing the Robins or Swifts getting together to migrate this fall and have felt like an "armchair birder" at not seeing shorebirds of rare vintage, cheer up! After all, twenty miles out to find a mud flat is quite a trip after a hard day. And what is so bad about an "armchair birder"? If his chair is outdoors, so much the better. Or, by a window feeding shelf!

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

P R O G R A M

SATURDAY MORNING DEC. 27

10:00 a.m. DeSoto Room, 16th Floor

Joint session of the Science Teaching Societies affiliated with the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS, NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS Assn. and AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY.
Subject: "Implementation of Basic Principles of Good Teaching"

Saturday Afternoon Dec. 27

2:00 p.m. DeSoto Room

Joint Session with NABT and NSTA

Subject "Implementation of Objectives for Retarded and Superior Science Students"

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 27

6:30 p.m.; DeSoto Hotel Annual Banquet; NABT, ANSS, NSTA

8:00 p.m.; Presidential address, ROGER TORY PETERSON . European Bird Adventures. Illustrated.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

9:00 a.m.; NABT and ANSS Joint Field Trip—David Jones, Chairman.

Leave from Lobby entrance of De Soto Hotel, Locust Street. Trip to Mississippi and Missouri flood plains. (To observe rapid ecological adaptations to sudden habitat changes due to river action). Open to all interested. Cost per person, including transportation by bus and lunch, \$3.50. Reservations should be in by noon Saturday, Dec. 27. Leaders: Earl Comfort, Rex Conyers, Marshall Magner, Charles Mohr, Laurence Palmer, Roger Tory Peterson, John Wanamaker.

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 29

10:00 a.m.; Hotel De Soto Hunt Room; Session

RICHARD W. WESTWOOD, Presiding

1. "Nature Study, Yesterday and Today." LAURENCE E. PALMER, Cornell Univ.
2. State Park Naturalist Programs. HOWARD E. WEAVER
3. Outdoor Education with a Recreational Slant. WINIFRED HADDOCK, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N.Y.
4. The Role of a Local Nature Study Group.
EARL COMFORT, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, Webster Groves, Mo.
5. Exhibits Tell the Conservation Story.
REX CONYERS, University City, Missouri

MONDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 29

2:00 p.m.; Hotel DeSoto, DeSoto Room; Panel;

Presenting Nature and Conservation Through the Major Mediums of Public Enlightenment

ROGER TORY PETERSON, Presiding

1. "Newspapers."
LEONARD HALL, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri.
2. "Magazines."
KENNETH D. MORRISON, National Audubon Society, New York City, N.Y.
3. "Television."
ELLSWORTH JAEGER, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N.Y.
4. "Radio."
ELIZABETH GOLTERMAN, Division of Audio-Visual Education, Board of Education, St. Louis Missouri
5. "Movies."
GEORGE ORIAN, Audubon Screen Tour Lecturer, Toledo, Ohio.

MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 29

8:30 p.m.; Hotel DeSoto, Cotillon Room; Annual Showing of Kodachromes.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 30

2:00 p.m.; Hotel DeSoto, Cotillon Room; Panel Discussion and Demonstration: Getting Better Results from Nature

Photography.

CHARLES E. MOHR, Presiding

1. "Finding and Filming New Subjects."
FRAN WILLIAM HALL, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.
2. "Taking Pictures to Tell a Story."
CHARLES W. SCHWARTZ, Missouri Department of Conservation.
3. "What Pictures Do Editors Want?"
JOHN H. GERARD, News and Wildlife Photographer, Alton, Illinois.
4. "Better Use of Photographs in Teaching."
RUTH E. HOPSON, Oregon State System of Higher Education, Eugene, Oregon.

Many local Audubon members assisted in the arrangements for this Convention.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN
VOL. 21, NO. 2 NOV. 1952

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 Telephone TU 4-2092

Editor Rex Conyers

CHRISTMAS CENSUS

DEC. 28, SUN., 8 A.M.

MARSHALL MAGNER,
CHAIRMAN

St. Louis and Environs

Participation in the nation-wide
Audubon count of winter birds.
For details phone: TU 4-2092.